

Society of Grasslands Naturalists Board Meeting January 7, 2014

Present: Anne Bernhardt, Jim Black, Paul Thibault, Gary Martin, Bill Knibbs, John Slater, Corlaine Gardner, Barry Anderson.

Location: Nature Centre, Police Point Park

Call to order at 2:00 pm.

Minutes:

1. The November 5, 2013, board minutes were reviewed. **Motion carried** to accept the minutes.

Special Presentation:

1. Corlaine and Jim shared information regarding a potential outdoor classroom and hollow-log-theme playground located on the southwest corner of the Nature Centre which in part would be sponsored by money received by the local Kiwanis Club. **Motion carried** that the GN Board chair, Anne Bernhardt, write a letter to the Kiwanis expressing interest in support of funding for a joint venture for this project.

Action Items:

1. The casino fund-raising meeting and workshop for all newcomers has been rescheduled for January 14 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Holiday Inn Express. All questions regarding the Eligibility Guidelines will also be answered at this time.

2. No new information available regarding the Ecotrust Grant. However, some discussion emphasized the need for someone to continue work on the SE Alberta Birding Trail Project that has been initiated by Phil Horch and Milt Spitzer. Anne will pursue further interest of this project through the City of Medicine Hat Tourism.

3. Anne shared details regarding a Medicine Hat Coop program that would involve GN members, friends and family submitting yearly receipts to the Coop to qualify for rebates directed towards our organization. Anne will investigate how GN can receive recognition through this program.

4. Paul reported that the scheduled meeting with Mike Christie and the Community Foundation regarding endowments will be postponed until the return of Eileen, sometime after January 24.

5. John indicated that the Emerald Award application for the Baby's Breath Removal Project completed by Sean Allen this past year will be submitted before the February 28 deadline.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Due to Eileen's absence, no GN and IP Balance Sheets and Income Statements were available.
2. As well, accurate counts of GN memberships or new GN members were also unavailable.
3. Barry will deposit money from the most recent memberships, donations, etc.

Correspondence:

1. No recent correspondence to report.

Other Reports:

1. Governance Committee

- The next meeting will be scheduled after Eileen's return.

2. Budget Committee

- Thank you to both Gary Martin and Hugh Armstrong who have offered to become members of the Fundraising Committee.
- The next Budget Committee will be hosted by Paul on February 4 @ 1:00 pm.

3. I.P Operations Committee

- The next meeting will be held January 13 at the Nature Centre; time of the meeting pending contact with Bob Townsend, interim chair.
- **Motion carried** to have Gary Martin replace Phil Horch on this committee.

4. Issues Committee

- No recent update regarding the Alberta South Saskatchewan Regional Plan as the process is on-going.
- John gave a brief summary of the recent legal battle that has ensued between the City of Medicine Hat – along with co-applicant LGX Oil and Gas – and the Federal Government regarding the sage grouse protection order. After some discussion it was agreed that any comments to the media about this issue be voiced exclusively through our chair, Anne Bernhardt.

5. Communications Committee

- Discussion focussed on the need for improved communication between the Medicine Hat News and advertisements related to the guest speaker hosted at GN monthly General Meetings. As such, Bill Knibbs will contact each speaker beforehand requesting a brief synopsis of his or her presentation be submitted to him via email. This synopsis will then be forwarded to the News for publication.

Adjournment at 3:40 pm. The next Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 4 @ 7:00 pm hosted by Judy and Barry Anderson, 32 Rossland Street SE, 403.527.3519